

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **5th Grade** | Unit 10

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 510

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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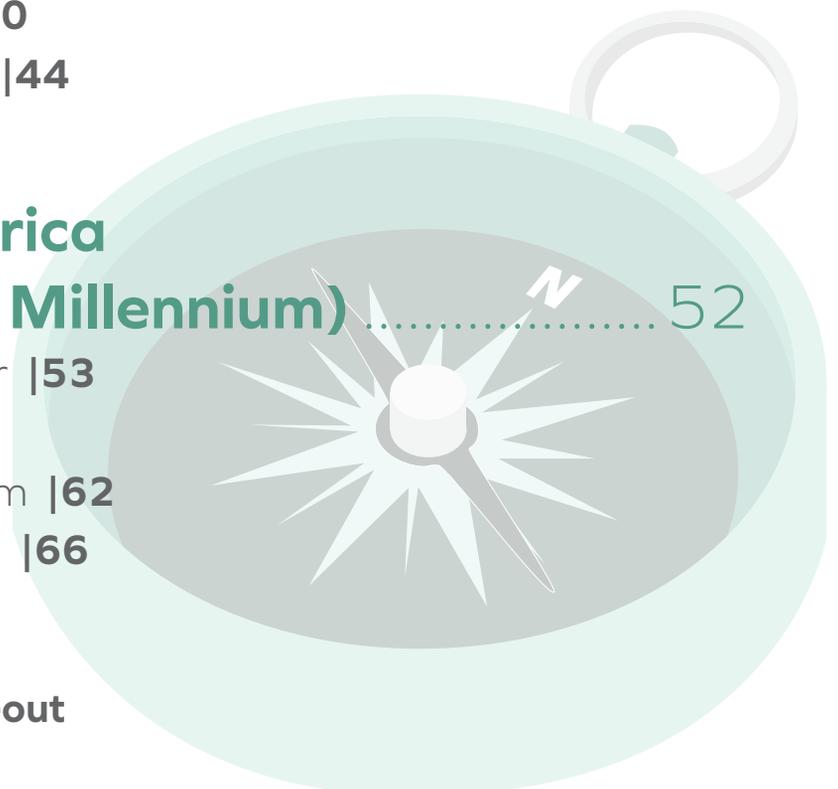
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**Author:**

Theresa Buskey, J.D.

**Editor:**

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

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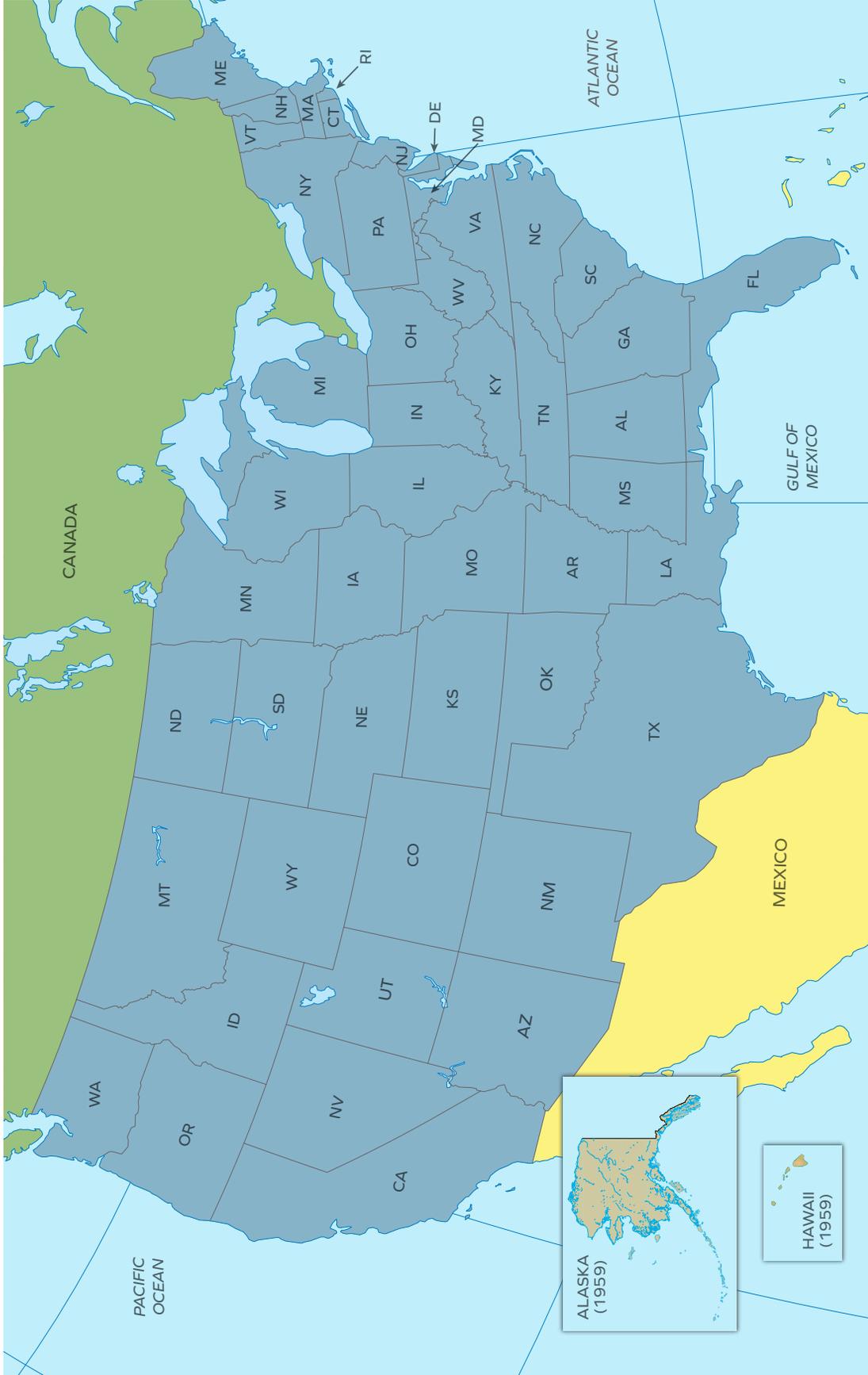
# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This LIFEPAC® is a review of the history of the United States of America. This LIFEPAC will retell the most important points you have studied over the last year. It will help you to see all of American history in one sweep. Because this is a review, it does not give many details or explanations. If you need more detailed information, refer to the original LIFEPAC, an encyclopedia, or reliable online resources. The same is true of any words you do not recognize. Look them up in a dictionary or online

## Objective

**Read this objective.** The objective tells you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC.

- When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to give a general overview of American history, recognizing important people, inventions, wars, and events.



| The United States of America

# 1. BEGINNING AMERICA (UNTIL 1830)

This section will review the origins of the United States. It will discuss the European explorers who mapped and named our land. It will also retell the stories of how the original thirteen colonies were founded. This section will then discuss why Britain and the colonies came into conflict. This conflict over taxes and laws led the American colonists to declare their independence and create the nation called the United States of America.

## Objective

**Review the objective.** When you have finished this section, you should be able to:

- Give a general overview of American history, recognizing important people, inventions, wars, and events.

## Origins of the United States

**Discovery of North America.** North America was first settled by people from Asia who crossed the Bering Sea long before the Europeans began to explore. These people were the ancestors of the many Native Americans who still live here today.

The first Europeans to come to America were Vikings from Greenland. Led by Leif Ericson, the Vikings sailed to Canada around A.D. 1000. They were not able to colonize the land, and the story of their discovery never reached most of Europe.

In the 1400s, Europeans began to explore and map the world. They were looking for an all-water route to Asia because they wanted spices which were very popular and profitable in Europe. By 1498 Portugal had found the first route by going around Africa. The idea came from Henry the Navigator, a prince of Portugal, who set up a school to train sailors in the 1400s.

Christopher Columbus, an Italian sea captain, believed he could reach Asia by sailing west, around the world. He thought Asia was much closer to Europe than it really is, and he did not know America was in the way. He convinced the rulers of Spain, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, to sponsor his voyage.

Columbus sailed in 1492 with three ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. He landed that year on an island in the “West Indies” (so named to tell them from the East Indies in Asia). Columbus named the island San Salvador. He believed he had landed in Asia, but he could not find any wealthy cities and finally returned to Spain.

He went to America three more times. He founded the very first European colony in America, Isabela, on the island of Hispaniola.

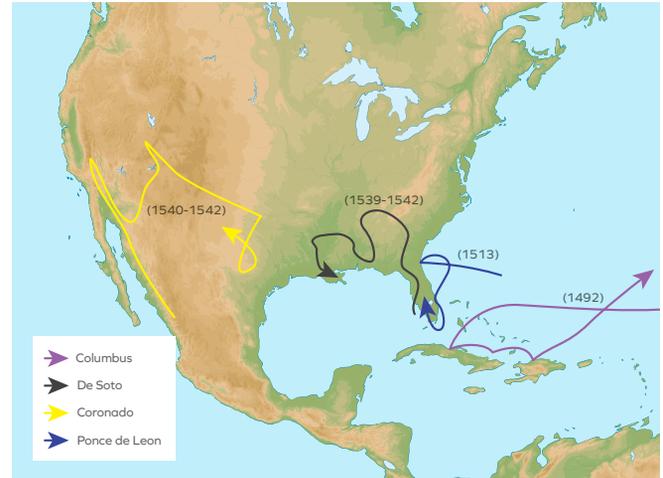
He never did learn the truth, that he had found the New World and not Asia.

**Spanish explorers.** Spain sent men to colonize and conquer the lands Columbus had found. *Conquistadors* began to map the land as they hunted for gold. Slowly, they learned more about the land and realized it was not Asia. This was confirmed when Spain sponsored Magellan on the first voyage around the world in 1519. Only one of his five ships survived the voyage, and Magellan was killed in the Philippines. However, the voyage proved that the world was a sphere and America was far from Asia.



| Christopher Columbus planned to reach Asia by sailing west, around the world.

Other Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to reach parts of what is now the United States. Ponce de León explored and named Florida while looking for the fountain of youth. Hernando de Soto found the Mississippi River when he investigated the land north and west of Florida. Francisco Coronado went searching for seven cities of gold north of Mexico. Instead, he found the Grand Canyon and land that would one day be Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Spain also founded the first colony in the U.S., the city of St. Augustine in Florida.



| Columbus and Spanish explorers

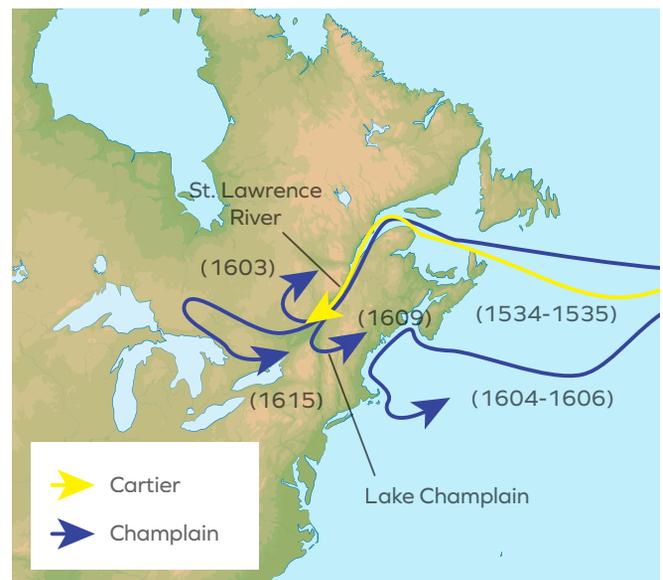
**New France.** The French king wanted gold and to find the Northwest Passage through North America to Asia. In about 1530, he sent Jacques Cartier to explore the gulf west of the Grand Banks, the fishing area near Canada. Cartier found and named the St. Lawrence River. He explored it as far as what is now Montreal.

Samuel de Champlain started the first French colony in 1608 at Quebec. He also explored the rest of the St. Lawrence, parts of Lake Ontario, Lake Huron, and upstate New York where he found the large lake now called Lake Champlain. He became known as the “father of New France” for his work.

New France spread as the colonists searched for new areas to trade for furs. Furs were very valuable in Europe, and the French traded with the Indians for them. They set up forts along the rivers to protect their country, holding large amounts of land with very few people.



| French explorers



After spreading along the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, New France pushed south along the Mississippi River. Two Frenchmen, Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet, explored the river as far south as Arkansas in 1673. Sieur de La Salle followed it to its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico in 1682. He claimed all of the land drained by the river for France, all of the center part of what is now the U.S.

**New Netherlands.** In 1609 Henry Hudson explored the Hudson River in New York for the Dutch. The Dutch West India Company started a colony there to farm and trade for furs. They bought Manhattan Island and started a city there. The British took over the colony in 1664 and renamed it New York.

**English exploration.** Several English explorers also made claims for their nation. John Cabot found the Grand Banks and explored along the northeast coast of the continent soon after Columbus sailed. Beginning in 1577, Sir Francis Drake explored the coast of California on a trip he made around the world, raiding Spanish towns. Henry Hudson sailed for England and explored northern Canada looking for the Northwest Passage in 1610. Hudson Bay, where he was left behind by his men, was named after him. This gave England a claim to the U.S. east coast and Canada around the borders of New France.



| Dutch and English explorers



**Name the explorer.**

- 1.1 Led the first voyage around the world: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2 Explored and named the St. Lawrence River: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3 Explored New York for the Netherlands and northern Canada for England:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.4 Discovered America by sailing west to reach Asia for Spain:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5 First European to reach America, Viking: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.6** Found the Grand Banks, explored the northeast coast for England:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.7** Founded Quebec, explored Lakes Ontario and Huron as well as northern New York:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.8** Explored and named Florida while looking for the fountain of youth:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.9** Set up a school of navigation and organized Portugal's discovery of an all-water route to Asia around Africa: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.10** Explored north and west of Florida, discovered the Mississippi River:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.11** Raided Spanish towns and explored the coast of California on a trip around the world: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.12** Explored Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico looking for cities of gold:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.13** Explored the Mississippi River from the north as far as Arkansas:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.14** Claimed all of the land drained by the Mississippi for France after he followed the river to its mouth: \_\_\_\_\_



**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.15** Europeans wanted to reach Asia to trade for \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.16** The product the French wanted in New France was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.17** Europeans wanted to find a way through or around North America called the \_\_\_\_\_ to reach Asia.
- 1.18** New France spread along the St. Lawrence River, the \_\_\_\_\_ Lakes, and the \_\_\_\_\_ River.

**English colonies.** The United States was created by the thirteen original colonies. These were all separate colonies of Great Britain. They were divided into three sections: New England, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies.

New England included four colonies. Pilgrim Separatists settled Plymouth in Massachusetts in 1620. Their ship, the *Mayflower*, was supposed to go to Virginia, but landed at Cape Cod by mistake. Massachusetts was legally founded by Puritans who came to escape religious persecution. Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams who fled from Massachusetts in 1636. His colony was the first to have full freedom of religion. Connecticut was founded in 1636 by Thomas Hooker, a Massachusetts pastor who believed non-Puritans should be allowed to vote. New Hampshire was settled by people leaving Massachusetts.



| The Pilgrims settled Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts.

There were four Middle Colonies. New York began as New Netherlands, started by the Dutch West India Company. The Duke of York took over the colony for England in 1664. The Duke gave New Jersey to two of his friends in 1664. They organized a colony which they sold to the Quakers as a refuge. Pennsylvania was given to William Penn, a wealthy Quaker, by Charles II to pay a debt. Penn formed a fast-growing colony by offering cheap land, religious freedom, and fair government. Delaware was given to William Penn by the Duke of York and eventually became a separate colony from Pennsylvania.

There were five colonies in the South. Virginia was the very first colony, founded by the Virginia Company of London at Jamestown in 1607. It developed a plantation system using slaves to grow tobacco. That system spread all over the South using different crops. Maryland was founded by Lord Baltimore as a refuge for Catholics in 1634. North Carolina was the northern part of the land given to eight friends of Charles II in 1663. It was settled by farmers from Virginia. South Carolina (the southern part) was settled by planters from the West Indies, who grew rice and indigo. Georgia was started in 1733 by a group under James Oglethorpe as a place for debtors to work off their debts.

**French and Indian War.** Britain and France fought several wars during the 1600s and 1700s. The biggest war in North America was the French and Indian War (1754-1763). George Washington fought in the war as an aide to a British general. The British finally won the war by capturing key forts in New France, especially Quebec in 1759. When the war ended, France gave up all of its land in America. Britain owned all of Canada and all of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

**Conflicts with Britain.** The American Revolution began after the French and Indian War. Britain was deeply in debt. Its government decided to tax the American colonies and control them for the very first time. Before the war, the Americans had been left to run their own governments and trade. The only taxes they paid were passed by their own colonial assemblies.

Beginning in 1763, there were a series of British actions and American reactions that brought the two sides into conflict. The Proclamation of 1763 ordered the colonists not to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. They ignored it.

The Stamp Act ordered the colonists to pay for a stamp on all important papers in 1765. Nine of the colonies met at the Stamp Act Congress, the first all-colony assembly. Americans boycotted British goods, and mobs attacked the stamp sellers. The tax was ended quickly, but in the Declaratory Act, Parliament said it had the right to control the colonies.

The Townshend Acts taxed goods like tea, glass, and lead coming from Britain. The Americans boycotted again, and the taxes were ended except for the tax on tea.

The East India Company was given a monopoly on selling tea to the colonies in 1773. The Americans refused to accept the taxed tea. At the Boston Tea Party, the tea was thrown into the harbor. The British government reacted with the Intolerable Acts which closed Boston Harbor, put the city under military rule, and ended many of the freedoms of the people in Massachusetts. The First Continental Congress met in 1774 to protest the Intolerable Acts.

The military governor of Massachusetts sent troops to Lexington and Concord in 1775 to destroy military supplies and capture the colonial leaders. They were met at Lexington by the colonial militia, and shots were fired, beginning the War for Independence. More shooting occurred at Concord, and the British were fired upon by the militia all the way back to Boston.



| Some Native Americans fought for the British, and others fought for the French.

The militia and the British fought again at the Battle of Bunker Hill a couple of months later. The Americans fortified the hill outside Boston, and the British troops attacked straight up the hill. The Americans drove them back twice but had to retreat when they ran out of gunpowder.

**Second Continental Congress.** The Second Continental Congress met in May of 1775. They appointed George Washington as commander of the army around Boston. They voted for independence on July 2, 1776. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence to explain the decision. It was accepted on July 4, 1776, and that became the date we say the United States was born.



| The Sons of Liberty, dressed as Mohawk Indians, pour tea into Boston harbor.



**Name the colony.**

- 1.19 \_\_\_\_\_ Founded by Thomas Hooker
- 1.20 \_\_\_\_\_ Founded by eight friends of Charles II, settlers from West Indies set up plantations for indigo and rice
- 1.21 \_\_\_\_\_ The Pilgrims were there first, but the Puritans followed
- 1.22 \_\_\_\_\_ James Oglethorpe wanted to help debtors
- 1.23 \_\_\_\_\_ Jamestown was the first settlement, tobacco became its crop

# SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |       |   |                         |
|--------------|-------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ | Led the first Europeans to reach America  | a. Christopher Columbus |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ | Invented the cotton gin, used interchangeable parts to make guns                    | b. Ponce de Leon        |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ | Set up the Missouri Compromise  | c. Samuel de Champlain  |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ | Explored and named Florida  | d. Henry Hudson         |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ | Led the founding of Georgia for debtors   | e. George Washington    |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ | "Father of New France," founded Quebec  | f. William Penn         |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ | Discovered America while trying to reach Asia for Spain                             | g. Roger Williams       |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ | Revolutionary War commander, first president  | h. Thomas Jefferson     |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ | Revolutionary War hero, traitor   | i. Benedict Arnold      |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ | Explored a river in New York for the Dutch and a bay in Canada for the English      | j. Eli Whitney          |
| <b>1.011</b> | _____ | Hero of the Battle of New Orleans, also forced Spain to give up Florida to the U.S. | k. John Adams           |
| <b>1.012</b> | _____ | Wealthy Quaker, founder of Delaware and Pennsylvania                                | l. Henry Clay           |
| <b>1.013</b> | _____ | Second president  | m. Andrew Jackson       |
| <b>1.014</b> | _____ | Third president, wrote the Declaration of Independence                              | n. Leif Ericson         |
| <b>1.015</b> | _____ | Founded Rhode Island  | o. James Oglethorpe     |

**Name the item, war, event, or thing** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.016** \_\_\_\_\_ New France was around the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, and this river
- 1.017** \_\_\_\_\_ New Netherlands became this colony (later a state) when it was taken over by England
- 1.018** \_\_\_\_\_ The first English colony in America
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ War between England and France (1754-1763), France lost its American lands
- 1.020** \_\_\_\_\_ First battle of the American Revolutionary War
- 1.021** \_\_\_\_\_ Last important battle of the Revolutionary War
- 1.022** \_\_\_\_\_ Boston's reaction to taxed tea in 1773
- 1.023** \_\_\_\_\_ War against Britain over impressment, the capture of U.S. cargoes, and British forts on American land
- 1.024** \_\_\_\_\_ Land west of the Mississippi River purchased from France in 1803 for 3¢ an acre
- 1.025** \_\_\_\_\_ First ten amendments to the Constitution



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804 N. 2nd Ave. E.  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070  
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